[21st October 1927

Union Board of Gudivada, Kistna district, and the appointment, to the nomination seats in that Board, of persons belonging to communities which enjoy representation by election;

(b) if such have been received, what action have the Government taken on them;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the Adi-Andhras and other voters in the Union Board instituted a suit in the Gudivada District Munsif's Court for the cancellation of such wrong nominations, that the District Munsif condemned such nominations wholesale and set them aside as being in violation of section 9 of the Local Boards Act and that those who were wrongly nominated thereupon preferred an appeal to the District Court;

(d) whether the Government are in receipt of any papers relating to it from the Gudivada Ratepayers' Association; and

(e) whether in accordance with the reasonable request of the responsible association, the Government will cancel the wrong nominations?

A.—(a) & (b) The Government have not received any such representations.

(c) & (d) No.

(e) The Act gives the Government no power to cancel the appointments.

Municipal Councils

Alleged unsatisfactory administration of the Erode Municipality.

* 769 Q.—Mr. Basheer Ahmad Sayeed: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received representations to the effect that the administration of the Erode Municipality is far from satisfactory under the present Chairman, and if so, what action the Government propose to take to better the administration of the said municipality; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the mismanagement of the said Erode Municipality was already brought to the notice of the Government last year by elected members of the municipality, and if so, why the Government did not take any action in the matter?

A.—(a) & (b) In December 1925, eight councillors made an allegation to the Government that the Chairman, Municipal Council, Erode, had not properly accounted for some municipal money drawn by him as advances and had also incurred unauthorized expenditure on the formation of a park. The Government, on investigation, found that the Chairman had not exercised sufficient care in dealing with municipal money. He was warned to be scrupulously careful in dealing with such funds and that any loss due to his neglect or carelessness was surchargeable. In August 1926, twelve councillors resigned their seats on the Council as they were not satisfied with the municipal administration and they suggested that the Government might dissolve and reconstitute the Council. After considering the Chairman's report to the Government on the subject, the Government considered that no action was necessary.

21st October 1927]

Mr. BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED :—" Am I to understand that the report of a single gentleman counted more with the Government than the representations of the twelve elected members of the Erode Municipality ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" Will the hon. Member please repeat his question ? "

Mr. BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED :—" Am I to understand that it is the policy of the Government that the opinion or the statement of a single individual should count more than the representations made by twelve elected members of a municipality ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" That is only a matter of opinion."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" May I know if the Government received several communications recently that this Chairman has committed several irregularities ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I want notice."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" May I know if after notice of the question was sent up, the Government took up for consideration the question of dissolving this municipal council ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" No, Sir."

Alleged discrepancies in the accounts of the Erode Municipality.

* 770 *Q.*—Mr. BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Local Fund Auditor who audited the accounts of the Erode Municipality during last year found out grave discrepancies in the accounts of the Erode Municipality and reported to the Government about the same and also recommended the prosecution of the Chairman and other persons concerned ;

(*b*) if so, whether the Government will be pleased to lay a copy of the report of the Auditor and connected papers on the table of the House ; and

(*c*) whether the Government took any action against the Chairman on the recommendation of the Auditor's Report, and if not, why not ?

A.—(*a*) Apparent discrepancies were brought to notice. The Auditor did not make any specific recommendations for the prosecution of *any* person.

(*b*) The answer is in the negative.

(*c*) The Government passed orders in G.O. No. 3930, L. & M., dated 9th September 1926, after an investigation held by the Collector. The order is laid on the table.[a]

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" With reference to the Government Order at page 24 of this list, may I ask the hon. Minister what exactly is the finding of the Government as regards his gross carelessness in dealing with municipal money ? " 11-45 a.m.

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" What exactly the Government propose to do is contained in the Government Order."

[a] Printed as Appendix IV on page 395 infra.